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outset and referred to a committee of jurists for decision. The legal question having been decided by the committee of jurists, the commission, acting under the provisions of the League, has submitted its report to the Council. The commission finds that the islands are separated from Sweden by an open sea and connected with the Finnish mainland by a succession of islands and in winter by a sheet of ice. They have a population of some 22,000 people, 96 per cent of whom speak the Swedish language. For over a century these islands have formed a part of Finland. In August, 1917, because of the Russian Revolution, certain delegates of the islands expressed the desire to be united with Sweden. The commission believes, however, that Finland's right to sovereignty is incontestable, and that the principle of self-determination should not apply in this case because of the fact that the Swedish population of the islands is but a small part of the Swedish population of Finland as a whole; because the position of the majority of Swedes in Finland would be adversely influenced by the separation of the islands from Finland; because the dangers of which the islanders complain are not the result of a policy of oppression on the part of Finland; because the islands have not the necessary capacity to survive as an independent State; and because a temporary settlement, to be followed by a subsequent plebiscite, would but continue the causes of friction. The commission believes, further, that all the difficulties complained of by the islanders will be met if Finland adds certain essential guarantees to the law of autonomy voted in favor of the islands May 7, 1921. These guarantees are:

The compulsory instruction in Swedish and the exclusion of Finnish in the primary and technical schools; the right of pre-emption in favor of the inhabitants on every occasion when offers of purchase of property are made by persons or a company foreign to the islands; the right of franchise for strangers to be limited to those who have been resident in the islands for five years; and the provision that the General Council of the islands may nominate a list of three candidates, from whom the Government of Finland shall select the Governor of the islands; all these rights to be overseen by the League of Nations.

Regarding disarmament, draft proposals for the neutralization of the islands, preferably by a convention, signed by the Great Powers, as well as by the Riparian States, have been presented by both Finland and Sweden. The committee believes that the convention should define the boundaries forming the frontier of the islands, and that the maintenance of order should be left to the police and customs officials rather than to Finnish troops.

BOOK REVIEWS

THE NEXT WAR. By *Will Irwin*. E. P. Dutton & Co. \$1.50.

A graphic picture of the collapse in the Great War of all that chivalric code built up by the professional soldier during centuries, under pressure of the growing Christian conscience of the civilized world, and of the reversion of warfare to the objects of ancient barbarians, is given by Will Irwin in his new book, "The Next War," the sub-title of which is "An Appeal to Common Sense."

"The barbarians of the twentieth century B. C.," says Mr. Irwin, "killed in any manner which their imaginations suggested; so now did the civilized men of the twentieth century A. D. The barbarians of the twentieth century B. C. killed the women and children of the enemy as tribal

self-interest seemed to dictate; as now did the civilized men of the twentieth century A. D. The barbarians of the twentieth century B. C. made slaves of the conquered people, or forced them to pay tribute; so virtually—in such acts as the destruction of the French mines—did civilized men of the twentieth century A. D."

From such facts in the late war, Mr. Irwin projects a picture of what the next war will be, if mankind fails to prevent wars. He tells of the evolution of gas warfare, from the relatively primitive attack the Germans sent against the British lines at Second Ypres, to the Lewisite gas developed by American chemists for the attack which was to have been made on Berlin in 1919—a gas that is invisible, that sinks, and thereby searches out every living thing in dugouts, cellars, and other places of refuge, and that not only kills immediately if breathed, but if it settles on the skin—a gas that has a "spread" fifty-five times that of any other poison gas.

Such devices for wholesale death of non-combatants as well as combatants, plus the other killing agencies developed by science that hitherto has been concerned with multiplying the richness of life, makes the next war of general proportions a thing unendurable for humanity, Mr. Irwin argues with irresistible logic, and hence makes the organization of the world under laws, with adequate means of enforcement, the first duty of civilized nations.

Many are thinking and a few are working now, Mr. Irwin says, on a real law between nations, not a mere set of gentlemen's agreements. In the public opinion of the world, he finds already the moral basis for such a law, but holds that it is a force, and not a power, because it has no machinery—it is like "the potential electricity going to waste in a mountain river." He reasons that 50 or 60 sovereign nations and self-governing colonies must be organized as we organize individuals in a tribe, State or nation. In his excitement over these self-evident facts the author, however, goes too far. "In plain terms," he thinks, "they must get together, pass laws to define and forbid national murder and national burglary, and agree to punish with their collective force any violator of that law." Here is Article 10 all over again. And yet, his book, he says, is not a plea for or against the existing League of Nations. He would call the effective world organization a League, Association, Hague Tribunal "with teeth in it," or anything; the name is not important, the fact of an effective organization is.

"This is," he says, "the specific for the disease of war."

Meantime, let us have disarmament and all other temporary "painkillers."

MEXICO AND THE CARIBBEAN—A compilation of lectures on Latin-America. G. E. Spechert & Co.

In "Mexico and the Caribbean," a volume containing a series of lectures delivered at Clark University, the student of affairs in Latin-America will find much that is illuminating and instructive, and much that will clear away misapprehensions, and give point and direction to constructive American thought, bearing upon the great business of up-building a harmonious and mutually helpful relationship between the nations of the New World.

Consider the first chapter, an article on Mexico, entitled "Are the Mexican People Capable of Governing Themselves," by T. Esquivel Obregon, Mexican Minister of Finance in 1913, and later lecturer on international law at Columbia University. Through that chapter runs a philosophic discussion of the inevitable difficulties of fitting a democratic and representative system of government, modelled after our own, into the thoughts and customs of a people, many of them in a backward stage of civilization, many of them mentally and socially habituated by the precepts and practices of generations to some sort of autocracy. It will give the fair-minded a more sympathetic understanding of Mexican problems to read that discussion.

Such a picture of the heaven of righteousness and idealism working in Mexican social life will be refreshing as the fall of dew to numerous Americans. They will find in this volume, too, informing articles on that vexatious international economic problem, the Mexican oil situation; articles on the Mexican railroads; and they will find in the volume articles that will throw them back from an attitude of national self-complacency.